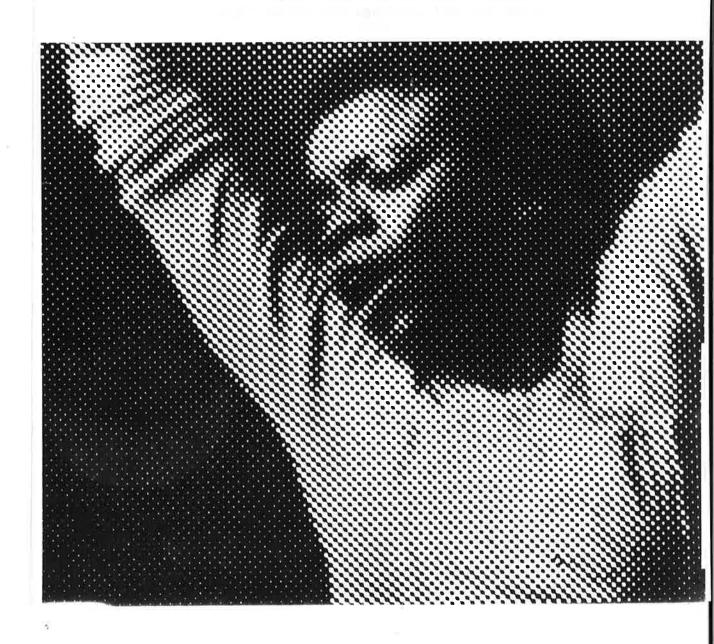
Blondell Cummings November 30 - December 3, 1989



RELATIONSHIPS: GOOD AND NOT SO GOOD (Excerpts)

Conceived and Directed by BLONDELL CUMMINGS

Original text by Sterling Houston and Dennis Poplin with Blondell Cummings

Original music by J. George Cisneros Voices: Blondell Cummings and Dennis Poplin

Sound design by Blondell Cummings and J. George Cisneros

Set by Philip Baldwin

Costume design by Daniel Geisler

Costume Coordinator, Carol Sherry

Lighting design by Clay Shirky

Assistant Lighting Design, Katherine A. Eader

Production Manager, Clarence R. Cuthbertson

PERFORMERS

Giovanna Agostini, Yvonne Essandoh, Ching Gonzalez, Susan Milani, Tom Thayer and Lisa Wheeler

SCENES

I. WERE YOU INVITED	.Cast
II. "DA DA"Tom	
III. SURPRISECast	
IV. MIX AND MATCH	.Yvonne Essandoh
	Ching Gonzalez
	Susan Wheeler
V. FRIENDSTom	Thayer
	Ching Gonzalez
VI. THE PARTY'S OVER	Cast

This piece was originally commissioned by the Carver Cultural Community Center, San Antonio, Texas.

Ms. Cummings would like to thank the cast for their contribution to the work.

"INTERMISSION"

FOR J.B.

(a work in progress)

The first in a series of pieces dedicated to the life and spirit of Josephine Baker (1909-1975). This section explores a moment in her life while living in St. Louis in the early 1920's. This series of pieces will eventually be a full evening work.

3B49

Passenger performed by Blondell Cummings. Music excerpts by Carl Stone.

Driver performed by Tom Thayer. Music by Michael Reisman.

Text, interviews of New York City taxi drivers.

Takes Two text by Blondell Cummings and Tom Thayer.

Dedicated to R. Cummings and New York City taxi drivers

BLONDELL CUMMINGS who conceived, directed, and choreographed this piece was an original member of Meredith Monk's The House. She was seen in Philip Glass' "The Photographer-Far From the Truth" directed by Joan Akalaitis and presented at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. Choreographing since 1978, Ms. Cummings tours extensively throughout the United States, Asia and Europe. Her solo and group works include, "Basic Strategies I through IV," "A Moment/A Fragment," "The Art of War," "Passing Images," "He Searched From Wall to Wall," "Food For Thought," "A Friend I&II," "The Ladies and Me," "Cycle," "To Collette Too," and "3B49." Ms. Cummings' piece "Commitment-two Portraits" premiered nationally on PBS' "Alive From Off Center" in 1988 and was featured on the cover of the New York Times Television magazine. She was profiled in Michael Blackwood's film "Dancing on the Edge." Her plans for the future include a residency in Japan, a duet show with Tom Thayer that focuses on relationships, and the development of a series of works based on the spirit of Josephine Baker. She has received choreographic fellowships and awards from The National Endowment for the Arts, The Jerome Foundation, Harkness Foundation, The New York State Foundation for the Arts and The New York State Council on the Arts.

TOM THAYER has been performing with Blondell Cummings for the past year. During that time their work has focused on researching (riding) and developing "3B49." His dance background includes performances with Don Wagoner and Dancers, the Mel Wong Company, and a. ludwig co. dance theater, a Phoenix-based company, as well as working independently. In May of 1990 Tom will be sharing an evening of dance theater with Shane O'Hara at the Nikolai/Louis Studio Theater.

GIOVANNA AGOSTINI is originally from Rome, Italy where she studied and worked with Andre Peck. In 1987 she received a B.F.A. in Dance from Ohio University. Since relocating to New York she has worked with Holly Fairbank, Johanna Shaw and Stephanie Skura. Giavanna studies with Barbara Mahler and Janet Panetta.

PHILIP BALDWIN has designed numerous sets for New York theater productions. In addition to Off and Off Off Broadway productions he has designed at Yal Repertory, Playmakers Repertory and other regional theater companies. He teaches at Bard Designs College.

CLARENCE R. CUTHBERTSON recently returned to New York from the Caribbean where he spent the past 13 years involved in theater. In addition to being a playwright, he is an accomplished musician and published author. Last November he mounted his own production of "Stages," a Caribbean theater piece. Recently he has been featured in three productions presented at the Henry Street Arts For Living center, "The Colored Museum," "lago" and "Colors." Clarence is currently having plays stage-read at Frank Silvera's Playwrights Workshop.

KATHERYN A. EADER Has answered most of Clay's beckoning calls for the past year for numerous dance and theater projects. A graduate of the University of Texas in Austin, Kathy moved to New York last year. Besides working as Clay's assistant, she is chasing her lifetime dream of founding an annual cow chip throwing contest in Manhattan on New Year's day.

YVONNE ESSANDOH Graduated with honors in dance from Hunter College and received a scholarship at the Clark Center. She has performed with Sounds In Motion, Joan Miller's Dance Players, and the Joyce Harrigan Dance Company. In the past year Yvonne was asked to perform in the "Choreographers Salute to Fred Benjamin" concert. She is currently performing with the Eleo Pomare Dance Company. Yvonne is very happy to be working with Blondell this season.

CHING GONZALEZ was last seen in "Nine Songs" by Yoshiko Chuma and Tan Dun and "Angel of Ascent" by Tamar Rogoff. He is a member of Meredith Monk and Vocal Ensemble and The House. He is featured in Ms. Monk's albums "Do You Be" and "Book of Days" on ECM Records. He was soloist and rehearsal director with Laura Dean Dancers and Musicians, has worked on Broadway and with Jane Comfort. His works include collaborations with writer Jessica Hagedorn, composer Don McGlahan of the Front Lawn and performer Nancy Alfaro.

SUSAN MILANI has choreographed and performed in eight works directed by Anne Bogart, most recently "Once in a Lifetime" and "Assimil" She has also danced with Rocky Bornstein, Ostrobanda Company, Steven Petronio, Randy Warshaw and Yoshiko Chuma. She has taught, performed and presented her own works throughout the United States, Canada, Europe and Australia. She is curently a member of the movement faculty at NYU's Circle in the Square. She also studies acting with William Esper.

BUTCH MORRIS has performed in New York City with his collaborative trio, conducted the Alice Coltrane Quartet and String Ensemble for a John Coltrane Memorial Concert, served as Musical Director for Systems Orchestra, the New York Sea of Improvisors and the David Murry Big Band. He has been commissioned by the Mary Flager Cary Charitable Trust to compose "Premature Spring" for his string quartet, and co-composed the theme and served as Musical Director of the ABC action series "A Man Called Hawk." Morris is currently involved in a dance project with Blondell Cummings about the life of Josephine Baker. He is also working with The Wooster Group on a theater piece called "Kyogen," and is scoring the music for "Daughters of the Dust," a film by Julie Dash.

CAROL SHERRY has been doing costume work for two years in New York and before that in California. Her most recent design work was for "Arms and the Man" at the Juliard School where she also manages the costume shop. In addition to costuming, Carol does wigs for two Theater in Limbo Off Broadway productions.

CLAY SHIRKY is a lighting designer for theater and dance. He has designed works for Dana Reitz, Amy and Amiel Malele, and has worked as Lighting Director for Dana Reiz, Senta Driver, Ballet Hispanico, Laura Dean, and Dan Wagoner. He has worked at Theater for a New City, Pan Asian Rep, Riverside Shakespeare and HOME for Contemporary Theater.

LISA WHEELER is a native of South Carolina. She graduated from Columbia College with a B.A. in dance. She danced with the South Carolina Ballet Theater and the Columbia College of Dance Ensemble where she performed works by Nina Wiener, Kristin Draudt, JoAnn Fragalette-Jansen, and Blondell Cummings. Since moving to New York in 1988, Lisa has enjoyed working with John Evans as well as performing her own choreography. She is currently a member of Dan Wagoner and Dancers.

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Ms. Cummings management services are handled by Downtown Art Company. (212) 732-1201

Technical Staff for The Kitchen: John Gernand, Production Manager John Figley, Technical Director Abbot Stranahan, Production Coordinator

Relationships: Good and Not So Good is part of an ongoing series about relationships. The first of which was sponsored by the Colorado Dance Festival with collaborators Keith Terry and Mei Mei Bressenbrugge.

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